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C o n t e n t s

Editorial (Are we making any progress?).....	Pages 1 - 2.
AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL MESSAGE?.....by J.Allison.....	Page 2.
A NOTE ON RECENTLY CHANGED AIRCRAFT NAVIGATION LIGHTS.....by D.N.Mansell.....	Page 3.
INTERNATIONAL BRANCH REPORTS (CONTACT) No:3. PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.....N.E.Rigau.....	Pages 3 - 18.
OPERATION BIBLIOGRAPHY (1974),.....by E.Cox & W.Oldershaw.....	Page 18.
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	Pages 19- 20.

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EDITORIAL.

First of all, would all members note that, due to the official reorganiz-
ation of the UK administrative boundaries, which became effective on April 1,
the address of our headquarters and of the Data Research unit has changed. We
are now in the county of Oxfordshire, and all correspondence should be addres-
sed accordingly.

2.

Most, if not all readers will be aware that, during 1973, there was a very marked global increase in ufo activity, although, conversely, most of those same readers will be ignorant of the majority of individual cases or the details comprising each case. How many readers for example know that over 600 separate ufo sightings occurred in Pennsylvania state alone last year?

Taking this a step further, how many specialists or how many ufo groups or organizations received notice of, let alone details of, all the sightings that are reported? We venture to suggest that none do, the Data Research division of CONTACT (UK) included. Although there are now in existence organizations who specialize in collecting and disseminating press reports of ufo sightings, especially in America, even these groups miss quite a number of the more obscurely reported accounts. Thus, any conclusions that researchers or investigative groups eventually reach about ufos recorded for any one area or period of time are inevitably based on incomplete retrieval processes. Small wonder, therefore, that the question "Are we making any progress?" is all too sadly pertinent.

The solution to the problem just outlined is difficult to devise on a global basis, but the concentrated reports for set periods of time by local agents or investigators in specific areas, such as forms the bulk of this present issue, may point the way. Certainly we need many more branch reports like that published here. Hopefully, these words may stimulate someone into action. The Editor.

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL MESSAGE?

Editorial Note: The following* appeared as a letter from John Allison in "Space-flight" magazine, vol.16, no:2, February 1974, p.79. Whether it constitutes a genuine extraterrestrial message or merely summarizes Mr Allison's current view of humanity is not known.

"Earth creatures are now beginning to venture out into space. This activity must be viewed with concern, as these creatures are potentially dangerous. They have very imperfect understanding of and control over their emotions, and are consequently extremely unpredictable and unreliable."

"In addition they are very quarrelsome and exceptionally stupid...."

"Earth creatures seem incapable of working together on a large scale for the common good. On the contrary, there are endless stupid quarrels during which large numbers may be killed and maimed by their own species, often using exceptionally brutal and cruel methods."

"Efforts are being made to instil some measure of cosmic responsibility into these creatures, by telepathy and other means, but so far these efforts have met with little success, as the stupidity, ignorance and complacency of these creatures is almost beyond belief. Meanwhile, there is a grave danger that the species will become extinct, either owing to unwise exploitation of natural resources leading to deterioration of the environment, or to self-destructive wars. Although one regrets the disappearance of any species from the Universe, it has to be admitted that this particular species is at the moment one of Nature's less successful experiments".

* Here slightly abridged.

A NOTE ON RECENTLY CHANGED AIRCRAFT NAVIGATION LIGHTS

by
D.N.Mansell.

All skywatchers and ufologists attempting to identify isolated "lights" seen in the sky should take special note of the following facts.

The majority of aircraft now carry a new strobe lighting system. These lights are brilliant, flashing, and pulsating, and are arranged along the leading edge of each wing. Both large and small aircraft are now equipped with these systems.

The lights themselves are entirely different to those featured in earlier aircraft lighting systems, and, until they become generally familiar to observers, could easily be mistaken for or confused with ufos by inexperienced individuals.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH REPORTS (CONTACT)

No:3. PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

by
Noel E.Rigau.

Together with the hemispheric wave that took place during 1973 in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, and various parts of the United States, there were also numerous UFO sightings in the Antilles, particularly between July 1973 and the beginning of 1974. This report details and analyses much of this UFO activity.

To date, this ufo activity has been the most extensive and frequent that has occurred in Puerto Rico, and has embodied many related features of the classic UFO phenomenon. On the other hand, only five cases of ufos were reported during the same period in the neighbouring Dominican Republic. It is assumed, however, that the activity in both countries formed a part of the same single "wave".

Interestingly, the present "wave" occurred practically during the same months as the abundant activity in the skies of Puerto Rico and Dominica in 1972, i.e., in August and through to November (a detailed account of this latter "wave" was published in STENDEK, vol.iv, no:12).

Before describing individual cases, one should note the following three important characteristics of the Puerto Rico sightings:

- (i) The press showed open interest in the subject, publishing various articles, interviews, etc. At present, a documentary film is being made about ufos by request of a television station.
- (ii) There is an abundance of Type I sightings, certainly more than in previous waves.
- (iii) There is an apparent tendency to more daytime sightings, included among which is that which led to the photograph taken on October 24th., 1973.

Later, we will provide a chronologically arranged account of these sightings, or of at least those which seem to us to be the most reliable, and where indications will be given of those personally investigated.

We will commence with the five sightings received from the Dominican Republic.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

29th. July, 1973: In the southern locality of Matas de Farfan, Dante Milciades Ramirez, Aquiles y Marino de Leon, and Ismael Castillo Mateo observed three ufos at 7.40pm. at the level of a nearby hill. According to the eyewitnesses, these ufos "kept crossing each other".

18th. August, 1973: On the north coast, in Puerto Plata, various witnesses affirm to having seen two luminous clouds moving towards the south-east. On the Cabarete beach, at least 12 persons observed the same phenomenon, while in Rio San Juan another ufo was reported at the same time.

23rd. September, 1973: Sr. Luis Rodriguez, travelling at 8.30pm through Dajabon, near the Haiti frontier, saw an unknown flying object at some 300 metres distance. Sr. Rodriguez afterwards said that the "object appeared to be metallic", and radiated intermittent lights at regular intervals. He also described it as being "larger than the full Moon".

24th. October, 1973: Four people, among them a doctor, two public employees, and an elderly lady, observed at 9.00pm. the descent of an object having a solid and metallic external appearance. The witnesses, who wish to remain anonymous, indicated that they saw the object over a period lasting 8 to 10 minutes. According to them, the object showed "a fluctuation as it came close to ground level, becoming invisible".

This sighting was made near the frontier town of Loma de Cabrera, whence the eyewitnesses went to give their information publically. When they afterwards returned to the sighting area, accompanied by others, no trace of the object was to be found of any kind.

2nd. December, 1973: While looking at some land in Villa del Mar, on the beach of Juan Dolio, which is on the south coast, four witnesses watched a ufo. A lawyer (R.F. de V.) said he observed "an intense yellow light with a paler centre", at low altitude at a distance. The "light" was revolving, and a fixed red "point" was noticed on the left side of the object. The size of a full Moon, the ufo arrived to within some 300 metres from the witnesses, and then turned 90° until it was lost to view. The sighting lasted 2 minutes, during which time the ufo maintained complete silence.

PUERTO RICO.

27th. September, 1973: Sra. Marta C. de Troche, saw from her balcony, of her house in Mayaguez, at 6.30am., a strange object which was "silver coloured, long, that did not seem like any aircraft". She noted that, in the cloudless sky, the ufo began to move towards the north-east, leaving behind "a sort of trail of white foam in a straight line". She then called her grand-daughter, who was able to see the object before it disappeared behind some distant buildings.

20th. October, 1973: This case, although it is not directly related to a visual sighting of a ufo, has interesting implications and, without any doubt, forms a facet of the whole ufo phenomenon.

On Saturday, 20th. October, at approximately 6.0pm. a group of 9 people had arrived at a road leading up to the summit of El Yunque, a mountain some 1065 metres high, up which they intended to climb for the express purpose of observing ufos, if any were in fact to be seen. The group comprised Heriberto Ramos

(an engineer), Juan Jimenez (a commercial pilot), his brother Luis Jimenez, a university student named Efrain Arroyo, and a high school professor with four of his students, all of whom wish to remain anonymous. The group were equipped with a camera and infra-red films, torches, and luminous signals (?flares), as well as food and camping equipment. While climbing up the pathway leading to the summit of El Yunque, the party met three girls and a young boy coming down the same route and having but one torch between them. The party thought it rather odd that one of this smaller group asked the way to the road, as it was then getting dark, and there had not been any car parked at the lower end of the path other than their own. According to Jose Jimenez, all three girls were very pretty, looked alike, and were dressed identically in blue trousers and red sweaters.

All these facts were confirmed by Efrain Arroyo during our detailed interview with him on 9th. November, 1973.

After arriving at the summit of El Yunque, the party camped round a small concrete building used for radio communications equipment, and in which there was a lighted bulb.

Around midnight, one of the members of the expedition told his companions that he felt something or someone was watching them. Then they heard a certain sound, upon which Juan Jimenez began taking infr-red photographs in near total darkness, aiming his camera towards the place where the sounds seemed to be occurring. They then went to the place and, by torchlight, noticed some deep imprints on grass that had been trodden upon, and also some broken branches. A short time afterwards, Heriberto Ramos and Efrain Arroyo left the main group and moved lower down the mountain slope. In the dim light, sometimes brightened by the Moon shining in between passing clouds, they espied 4 beings coming down the narrow path. "We could only make out some shadows, silhouettes that were climbing up moving from one side of the road to another in a zig-zag manner. There was one amongst them acting as the leader; they proceeded a little further, then stopped. We went on very cautiously, not knowing what we would find. The creature who was in front seemed to have some sort of little machine in his hands, perhaps electronic, because green, blue, and red lights came from it; he moved it up and down; it was not a means of illumination; it was something....with those little lights. We heard the sound of movement as they brushed against the trees. By then we were closer. Then one of our companions behind shone his torch on one of these creatures. They immediately moved away behind". Arroyo adds that it was the nearest they came to the strange creatures. At that moment, they felt a strange tranquility that they had never felt before.

Once again they carried out the same operation, approaching the creatures, who then, again, moved away.

For the remainder of the night the party kept a constant watch. At 5.30am. they began the descent of El Yunque, and found the whole pathway down the mountain covered in footprints much larger than those made by normal sized feet, and that these, as well as extending onto the ground on either side of the pathway, were also accompanied by another smaller imprint type. Furthermore, the branches of bushes nearby were broken, and, in some cases, completely severed from the parent trees. The imprints went all the way down to the place where the cars were parked.

6.

The minimum distance between the creatures and the witnesses was estimated to have been between 15 and 20 feet. Details could only be made out when the torch was focused on them. According to eyewitness descriptions, "4 creatures were between 5 feet and 6 feet tall, with long arms. We did not see their hands, but we gained the impression that they were large". When the creatures were illuminated, "we noted one creature with big eyes, pointed nose and ears and with horns, though we did not all agree on this last point". Their movements were brisk, "almost like leaping, we feel they might have been hanging onto the branches of the trees to leap from one side to the other of the road; in order to make the imprints there must have been a great deal of pressure; with the heels of our shoes we barely made any impression at all".

Returning to their respective homes, the commercial pilot, Juan Jimenez, took with him his infra-red film. On Sunday, 21st. October, while he was sitting on the balcony of his house with a neighbour, the mother of Jimenez could hear "a strange movement as if someone was moving the film or was taking out the roll". The neighbour also heard this sound, and it frightened both ladies. Indeed, they both ran out of the house until the rest of the family returned some hours later.

The next day, Efrain Arroyo took the film from his house to a commercial laboratory to have it processed. That night both his father and mother heard strange sounds. "The boards seem to move by themselves, we heard blows on the roof, and a kind of bell; suddenly an electric fan rolled onto the floor". According to Arroyo the strange noises (which we are inclined to think must have been made by poltergeist activity) ceased after a few days. The infra-red film was developed without any positive result. It was accordingly thrown away shortly afterwards.

Others of the eyewitnesses to the mysterious happenings on El Yunque said they shortly afterwards experienced horrific nightmares, especially one of the students who wishes to remain anonymous. He said that he had an apparition of a creature who told him he would forget everything. After detailed investigation, this case received much coverage in the news, particularly as the witnesses were serious individuals greatly respected in their social background.

23rd.-24th. October, 1973: During these nights, Mr Nelson Morales and his wife, Luz Maria, saw some luminous objects on the beach at Combata in the municipality of Cabo Rojo. On the last occasion, the ufo passed directly over their home, afterwards descending to water level, settling down near Boya Negra, a kilometre away from the coast. The object emitted a luminous light "giving the impression that someone was coming out from its interior".

24th. October, 1973: William Rosario, a professional photographer, was taking some photographs of the buildings on the campus at the University of Puerto Rico, at Mayaguez, in his capacity as official photographer to the university. It was 9.30 am., and he was accompanied by another photographer, Miguel Gonzales. Suddenly, the latter saw an object in the sky descending at an angle of some 45 degrees. Rosario quickly turned his camera onto the object, happily obtaining a good photograph of it. Immediately he took a second photograph, when the object turned in the opposite direction and started to move away. According to Rosario, everything happened in some 10 to 15 seconds. "I have never seen anything similar. The object was round and flew very quickly with a rotating motion. It was about the size of a small plane, the Pipercraft type, and it was like a cake with three levels. Its

colour was aluminium, it did not appear to be painted, and when it began to fly^{7.} upwards and away it became very bright". The camera used at the time was a Rolleiflex 75mm, and the photograph was taken in f/16 at 1/250th of a second on Kodak Tri-X (400 ASA) film. It was developed on Kodak D-76 in the proportion 1:1. The photograph was declared authentic by "El Nuevo Dia", in its exclusive report of October 26th (see note 1).

26th. October, 1974: The engineer Guillermo Bonet and the technician Jorge Silvestri, saw, for more than 20 minutes a UFO between the towns of Lajas and San German. Both witnesses were descending from the Monte del Estado (800 metres high), after their work as supervisors of radio systems there. The time was 11.00 am. The object was very "luminous", intensely white, and appeared to possess its own illumination. It remained stationary for 3 or 4 minutes, "then it began to come down and then go up abruptly". It moved away towards the West. At that distance it seemed to be twice the size of a house.

30th. October, 1973: A priest, Frederico Salcedo, and a group of the "faithful", saw what some called "an apparition of Christ", while they were attending mass in the parish church of Adjuntas, at night. "I saw it myself", said the priest, who further remarked "from a short distance it looked like an optical illusion; closer, however, I could see it was an image of Jesus Christ".

In 1972, the town of Adjuntas was the centre of many ufo sightings.

Beginning of November 1973 (exact date unnoted): There is no certainty about the actual date, but sometime during the early part of this month, Senora Monserrate Cancel, 55 years of age, together with neighbours, saw a ufo for 15 minutes. At 9.30 pm. the witnesses were praying at the back of a house when, suddenly, they saw a strange round object, with green and yellow lights, suspended some 30 feet above them, and rotating about itself. The ufo remained stationary for some while, but afterwards moved slowly away until it was lost to view.

2nd. November, 1973: In the suburb of Pina, in the town of Toa Alta, witnesses say they saw a strange oval object that "flew very low, almost silently, with a silver phosphorescence. Its pilot seemed human and he waved and made signs; he wore a helmet and eyeglasses of a strange kind". The ufo "stayed in the air for a few minutes, as if it were about to land, but it gave an abrupt turn to the right and went off to the North". Witnesses confirm that on the ground they found a "warm powder, rather like ash", an example (= sample ED.) of which we found impossible to obtain.

During the night a young man, Andres Acevado, of the neighbouring suburb of Quebrada Cruz, saw a ufo on a northerly flight, with one high and one lower light, as well as two "antennas".

9th. November, 1973: A professor of biology, Edwino Lebron Lebron, was, at 8.00 pm. on this date, sitting reading in the back patio of his house in Villa Nevares, San Juan, when he saw "2 luminous discs in military formation (one parallel to the other) that were flying at great speed from West to East.

10th. November, 1973: Dozens of people in the town of Maricao saw "a very luminous flying object having an apparant rotative movement and which seemed to send out 'flames of fire'." This event occurred at 8.30pm., and lasted for 15 minutes. Among the witnesses was Sr. Enrique Sanchez Rosado.

8.

11th. November, 1973: A series of ufo sightings occurred on this date, during the night, and principally around San Juan, the capital.

At 6.30pm. a group of young people at El Morro, saw 6 ufos moving from North to South, towards Catano. The objects were "round in form, with a red light on the upper part".

At 7.00pm. Sra. Ana Soldevilla and her family saw, above the Urban Floral Park, a luminous object which, at first, they took for a star. The object however "remained stationary for 5 minutes discharging many sparkling lights" and then left the vicinity. At the same hour, Sr. Guillermo Gandia and his family (Raquel, Walter, Edgardo, Ivan, and Madeline) were witnesses at the Urban Sagrado Corazon, a ufo that "was stationary for 5 minutes". This ufo was oval in shape, with a line of little lights at its base forming a ring that "rotated rapidly". The ufo then began to move rapidly towards the West, whereupon another object appeared in the place occupied by the previous one. This second ufo was more clearly seen. "It appeared to have three layers, horizontally, one on top of another; the predominant colour was reddish-orange". Suddenly this object accelerated towards the first one, changing to the colour white...both objects remained above the Rio Piedras for 10 minutes. At the end of that period, a commercial aeroplane flew nearby, and both ufos moved away vertically, then disappeared to the North and out of view.

17th November, 1973: A 20 years-old young man (R.A.) was returning to his home at 10.30 pm. from a friend's house in the suburb of Santana de Sabana Grande. At the time he was walking along and holding a torch, and found himself being approached by a luminous object descending from the skies. Rapidly the young man switched off his torch and hid behind some trees. The ufo, without making any sound, made a quick turn and rose up again. The boy's mother later confirmed that he arrived home very frightened and nervous, and told her what had occurred.

18th November, 1973: Various residents on the property of Ramon E. Betances, in the municipality of Cabo Rojo, told the journalist Reinaldo Silvestri, about a sighting of a strange object that "flew relatively low and at great speed". The observations were made at 6.30pm.

22nd. November, 1973: Sr. Jose A. Arroyo, 43 years, employed in social security, says that, at 3.30pm., he was in the garden of the Guanajibo Homes in Mayaguez when he saw an object "extremely brilliant and looking like an inclined plate, that was advancing without making any sound and at great speed", at an altitude of about 400 metres. The ufo was also seen by a neighbour, Gerardo Molina, and by Luis Alicea, as well as by his wife, Carmen C. de Arroyo. Everything happened in the space of 10 to 15 seconds. The ufo moved in a south-westerly direction.

24th. November, 1973: During the afternoon, various radio stations in Mayaguez received a number of calls about an unidentified object flying over the town. It was watched by dozens of individuals. At 2.00pm., J.A. Rios said he saw a flying object "in the form of a cube", that came from Cerro Las Mesas, at a fairly low altitude, while moving towards the north-east at "great speed". He could see a type of protruberance on its upper part. According to this witness, the object was turning round on itself.

At 6.20pm., Sra.Marta Troche, together with her daughter, saw a red ufo, 9.
"with a white light which circled around it" during its entire passage towards the north-east.

At 8.00pm., Sra Nidia del Valle de Agrait, heard a "sound rather like a vacuum cleaner" while she was hanging out washing in the rear patio of her house in Cabo Rojo-Boqueron, situated at kilometre 8. She looked up and saw that, almost in front of her, was a strange object some 15 metres away and not more than 10 metres above ground level. The object was not clearly discerned owing to the failing evening light. The principal witness, who was also accompanied by her three children, noted that "it was an object in the shape of an eye, with a light or window in its central section; it was like a pure eye". Confronted with this unexpected situation, Sra.de Agrait began to scream loudly. Then the ufo slowly began to ascend, "while it inclined to one side". At that moment the electric power supply to the area decreased considerably. Two neighbours saw the ufo after it had gained height and moved off in a westerly direction. Interestingly, before this incident, Sra.de Agrait had experienced two dreams which she considered "strange". In these dreams she was taken by extraterrestrial creatures to another "place", where they showed her the wonders of their world. Sra. de Agrait, by the way, is a teacher and locally much respected.

End of November 1973 (exact date unnoted): On a date which cannot be determined, Isabel Padilla de Maduro, a solicitor resident at La Rambla, Ponce, watched a "group of luminous objects travelling in 'V' formation at a great height" over that city at 11.00pm. The ufos travelled from the beach (South) towards the mountains of Adjuntas (north-east).

Late November 1973 (exact date undetermined): Sra Dimaris Lugo, of Iturrondo, claims that, on or about November 20th or 21st, she received a visit from a "strange man". Sra. Lugo, incidentally, works at an employment agency. She says:

Working at her job as receptionist, at about 3.00pm on one or other of the above dates a man entered her office seeking employment. Suddenly, as he placed himself in front of Sra.Lugo, he began to talk about "the terrible moral situation existing on Earth". At first Sra.Lugo did not pay much attention to the stranger's discourse but, as he persisted, she gradually became interested in what he was saying. While he talked, she noticed that he was dressed in what appeared to be "new clothes, just taken out of the box". He wore very black trousers, a white shirt in a material I have never seen before, shinning dark shoes, and a tie having a brown pattern, Sra.later reported. "But it was his hands that caught my attention. His arms were very long, and, as he crossed his arms, I noticed that his fingers were also very long and his hands beautiful. He was fair haired, his haircut was modern but he did not have much hair. His eyes were normal, fine lips, but the skin looked like porcelain - he was like a model. I have never seen anyone with such perfect features". The witnesses does not remember all the details of the conversation, although she assures everyone that she felt very attracted in a special way towards the man in spite of the fact that she is used to interviewing dozens of people every day. The matters discussed dealt with moral issues such as war, rebellion, ecology, etc., and references were made to "other, better places". The man spoke in a rather low voice, pausing and speaking in a mixture of English and Spanish in a strange accent. He did not, however, appear to be either English or Spanish. Finally he indicated to Sra.Lugo that he could make

10.

her forget everything simply by clicking his fingers. Saying his, he terminated their conversation with the remark "We shall see each other again soon".

Sra.Lugo believes that the stranger was "either a madman or a strange being from I don't know where". He dominated the conversation and never, from the moment of his arrival, showed the slightest interest in the "employment" he was supposedly looking for.

Late November, 1973 (exact dates unnoted): In the town of Yabucoa, in the south-east region of the island, there were several cases of ufo sightings which, unfortunately, lack certain critical details. They are summarized below.

Senorita Noemi Carreras said she saw "three round lights of a red colour in Indian file, which moved towards the sea" as she was travelling by car at 7.30 one evening. Two lights came near to each other while they moved "up and down". The third light maintained a steady course. Sr.Luis Correa, employed by the Department of Public Instruction, observed from the Jaime C.Rodriguez urbanization (= estate ED.), a luminous yellow light apparently rotating about itself and simultaneously pulsating. It moved very speedily from North to South. Sr. Alberto Sanchez Ortiz, observed from his residence in the Mendez Urbanization a ufo similar to the one just described. Sr.Ortiz, however, added that the object "passed over the Sun Oil Company refinery, in the direction of the mountains of La Cuchilla de Pandura". This event took place at 7.30pm., on or about November 23rd.

Some days later, on the 30th.November to be exact, Sr.Ramiro de Jesus Sanchez and Reinaldo de Jesus Reyes, both the of the suburb known as Guayabotas, while on the main road in front of the "La Capa" bar, saw, at 8.00pm., four very luminous objects in the sky. They were flying at about 500 feet altitude in a "formation line". Two of the objects were close together, the others further apart. The witnesses believe that "they were pulsating, without giving off any sound". Suddenly the objects were "lost to view" (?dematerialized, ED.).

One Sunday towards the end of November, the announcer Jose Francisco Roman was on his way to his work at Radio Luz, in the city of Rayamon. The time was about 6.35 am. He was listening to Radio Aeropuerto Internacional, that was already being broadcast, in order to check the time. Suddenly, Roman affirms, "the musical programme was interrupted and I heard a voice that identified itself as being extraterrestrial". He adds: "He gave his name, but I didn't understand it; it was as if it was in Chinese. It formed three words. The voice was strange, almost inhuman. It spoke Spanish in a very odd accent. I could not understand the message very well, not even his name, being, as it was, such a mixture of letters. All that I could catch was that people should remain attentive for "new messages" to be relayed in the future. A few seconds later, the radio station returned to its normal broadcast". According to Roman, "apparently their (radio Aeropuerto's, ED) frequency was taken from them during those few minutes". In the eyes of the Federal Commission of Communications, this is a very serious offence. Moreover, to be able to interfere in such a way on somebody else's wavelength needs transmitting power far stronger than that possessed by the radio station itself, which has a very powerful transmitter. Arriving at work, Roman immediately informed his colleagues, who, however, said they had noticed nothing unusual. As far as Roman is concerned, the interference on the Radio Aeropuerto broadcast was "expertly done".

Confirmation of Roman's experience seems to have occurred about the same date when an unidentified person telephoned the Press Association to say that he had also heard a message while returning to his evening work. This "strange broadcast" occurred when the unknown person was passing by the Flamboyant Gardens urbanization. It is not known if the Federal Commission of Communications has initiated any investigations into these events.

29th. November, 1973: Sr. Manuel Serrano Feliciano, an ex-policeman (formerly 11 years in the police force) was on the balcony of his house in Alturas de Bayamon, when he saw to the South a "star that was growing quickly without moving". This eventually became "an egg-shaped object, with 2 apparent focus lights at both extreme ends". In about 40 seconds, the light became more opaque until "withdrawing backwards" before disappearing. In the place where it had been a luminosity remained for more than a minute.

4th. December, 1973: Once again, the solicitor Padilla Maduro saw, from the balcony of his house in Ponce, "a group of objects at 2 a.m. coming out of a high star that was moving". According to Maduro, "about 6 or 7 luminous objects came out of the star, and they were round or oval...they came out in groups. The light of this objects was yellow".

5th. December, 1973: At 8.30am. about a dozen people watched "two brilliant objects" from the beach of the Hotel Caribe Hilton in San Juan. The witnesses included a secretary, a personnel administrator, and some tourists, of whom all prefer to remain anonymous.

On the same day, the weekly publication "IMPACT", produced in Bayamon, published a photograph of a ufo taken by a young man named Wilfredo Bonilla "some days earlier", in the mountain town of Lares. Bonilla said that he had seen the object several times, and had deliberately equipped and prepared himself to take a photograph of it. The object "moved a little and slowly...suddenly it disappeared and, surprisingly, returned...it was yellow and had lights, like reflectors, that extended upwards and behind". On the night when he took his photograph, Bonilla was with his mother, Sra. Francisca Rodriguez, and Sr. Jose Coll, on the balcony of the house in which they lived. The photograph was taken with a Polaroid Square Shooter No:2 camera.

10th. December, 1973: On this date Sra. Blanca Ruiz Arroyo announced "this week something happened that you will not believe". She added, "I returned from my work at 2 a.m. in my station-wagon on road no:2, or, as it is called, la Militar, which leads to the town of Sabana Grande, when I observed a strange illumination around my car, and I saw that the lights went out. I looked up and saw an oval thing very low, with illumination like lights of mercury, and as I had the window down I heard a metallic noise, like a humming. Whatever it was continued in front of my car, very low, and it did not have any windows...I was very frightened because I thought it was going to land on top of my car. It was about the size of my car, which is a Chevrolet 70 Impala. I accelerated to nearly 90mph and the object followed (led, ED.) in front...and when I went under the railway bridge, the object made a turn to the left and went upwards very quickly. From there, I went to the police station almost hysterical. I had some water, and when I was calm, I tried to explain to them (the police, ED.) what had happened. From that day I do not want to know about these things; I am too afraid".

12.

17th. December, 1973: Between 5.30 and 6.30pm., when there were few clouds in the sky, Manuel Padilla, a 40-years old publicist, came out of "Creative Films" in San Juan, and saw at great altitude a cylindrically shaped object, without protruberances, which looked like a "bullet". The object was silver coloured, very brilliant on occasions, but never opaque. It moved towards the north-east in an ascending linear movement at an "extremely rapid" speed, and left "two trails of white smoke" behind it.

21st. December, 1973: At 8.20pm., in the park of Bombas, situated in Hermanas Davilas urbanization, Bayamon, ten firemen, including Pablo Rafael Lopez, saw a ufo for 40 seconds. Shaped like "a cone on 3 levels...it had a line of lights on the lower side", each of which was arc shaped, not square. There was also a blue-green light on the upper part of the object, "like a mercury lamp". The object's base was circular, and reflected the the city lights due to its low altitude. The ufo moved "an at altidue slightly higher than that of the air-craft in this area", which is the one used by aeroplanes from San Juan airport. It went in a south-eastern to north-eastern direction, towards Toa Baja, moving "faster than a jet F-104 of the National Air Guard. The line of lights on the lower part gave the impression of turning round, and were of a white-yellow colour according to the eyewitnesses. They also noted on the lower part of the ufo, a "kind of cover", like another circle, but smaller". The object moved away to a point where a pulsating stationary light was situated and growing in size. When the ufo drew close to this light, the latter disappeared. The observers estimated that the size of the object approximated to that of a fire-engine, or was in other words some 25 feet in length (that is, almost 8 metres), and that at no time did it make any sound or noise.

That night, Angel Maldonado, a resident of Santa Juanita, Bayamon, reported having watched something similar from 8.15 to 8.30pm. Quite different, however, was the report a witness (who remains anonymous by request, and is merely referred to as M) who, while driving on Avenue Infanteria no:65 about the same time, saw an object "above the houses in the form of a bell" with "little windows" on the lower part of its base, which was apparently circular in shape and rotating. This eyewitness also noted that the object had a "red light on the upper part" of the object.

3rd. January, 1974: A little before 8.00pm on this date, there occurred one of the most important TYPE I cases in the annals of Puerto Rican ufology. It involved children, adults, and elderly residents of the Flamingo Terrace urbanization in Bayamon. Our investigation included interviews with 10 different families, amongst which were interviewed three children 7 to 10 years of age, 6 adults, and an elderly person. Thus the impressions and descriptions of eyewitnesses of all ages were collected.

At the time indicated, Sra. Lizzy Rodriguez de Maisonet was in front of her house, when, suddenly, she saw in the sky a round object "flat in its lower part, with a protruberance on its upper part, which looked like an inverted soup dish". On seeing the ufo, she called her husband, an ex-commercial pilot, and her neighbour Iris Esther Rivera. Together they gathered in Guillermina Street. The neighbour, on her part, told her children --- Richard (aged 10 years), Raymond (9 years), and Ronnie (8 years) --- who watched with the adults named above. All these

witnesses saw the object move East to West at a speed slower than those of the aircraft which commonly flew in the area as they landed at or took off from the international airport at Isla Verde. They watched the ufo until it disappeared behind a tree-covered mountain some 300 metres distant. A brief description of the area is important at this juncture in view of subsequent events in this area the same evening. ^{13.}

The Guillermina Street is the last one in the Flamingo Terrace urbanization, and is adjacent to a ravine to the south-east, along which a small brook flows. Beyond the brook a small hillock rises some 30, perhaps only 20 metres. This hillock is densely forested on its slopes all the way to its summit, where it flattens out into a small plateau. The Miguel Melendez school is located on this plateau.

After the first sighting mentioned, the witnesses returned to their respective homes, except the three Rivera children. At 8.10pm these children saw the ufo again, from Guillermina Street. The object remained suspended in the air over the mountain in front of them, at an altitude believed to have been between 10 and 15 metres above the ground. At this moment it is thought that the ufo was directly above the school. The ufo, according to the children, looked like "a soup dish upside down", with a line of "brilliant lights on the lower side which appeared to gyrate rapidly". As the object was stationary, a cylindrical and brilliant light, white in colour (although with a yellow tinge) came out from the lower centre part of the object. By this light, the children saw five apparently solid balls of a light-green hue. These descended, the first having the largest diameter. At the end of some 10 seconds, the light disappeared, closing the gap or aperture where the balls had come from. According to the children, they saw a kind of square gap on the side of the object, in the interior of which they could see a point of blue light, "like a little bulb", on or between a base of white light. At this point in time the children yelled to their mother and to other neighbours to come and watch what they were seeing. Simultaneously the "square gap became solid like the rest of the surface" of the ufo, and the craft began to move away at the same height towards the South. It then stopped again, and from the lower part of the disc came a "lot of white smoke" that seemed to disturb and send up dust from the ground of the school. This phenomenon lasted some 20 seconds. At this moment, the ufo resumed a slow movement to the South, stopping once more over a small house belonging to the Authority of Aqueducts and Sewers. This latter manoeuvre was watched by Carmen Rivera Vargas, Iris Esther Rivera, Lizzy Rodriguez de Maisonet, Carmen Aida Saldana, Antonio Pagan Saldana --- relations and neighbours who had gathered together on hearing the cries of the children. The ufo hovered for a few seconds over the above mentioned small house and then, at the same altitude, slowly moved back and away until it had disappeared completely. Witnesses affirm that, when the initial cries had quietened down, they could hear a slight humming sound from the object.

In general, the eyewitness descriptions coincide apart from a few details, possibly of a subjective nature. These are given below.

The object was shaped like an "inverted soup plate", was dark grey in colour although the tone itself varied according to the surface actually seen. It had a string of small, brilliant lights "in the form of little square windows" on

14. its lower border. Whitish-yellow in tinge, these appeared to rotate rapidly. The witnesses also noted two antennae, which they perceived in two positions coinciding with the going and returning of the object. These antennae had brilliant red lights at their extremities. The estimated diameter of the object was put at "a little larger than the length of a Volkswagon car". The percipients agreed that the object did not appear to revolve, only the lights on its lower section. An interesting detail is that, according to compiled statements, the base of the object did not have a perfectly circular curve, but seemed to be composed of an endless number of segments of a circle, each one corresponding to each small window or illuminated gap on the lower portion of the object. One witness thought that, although the object itself did not rotate, something inside it did.

At all times, this object moved slowly, as if it was "observing" things, and remained at some 10 to 15 metres altitude, and some 200 to 300 metres distant from the witnesses

According to an unconfirmed report, a young boy saw an aerial object apparently over the same general area from the adjacent Sans Souci urbanization. Up to the time of writing, it has not been possible to interview him.

11th. January, 1974: A young secretary, Migdalia Reyes, and her companion (name withheld), were driving along Loiza Street, near De Diego corner in San Juan, when, at about 12.30pm (00.30 hrs. Ed.), they saw a luminous object at some distance flying in a North-South direction, and initially proceeding from the area of Condado. Intrigued, the witnesses turned towards the South and came near to the express Baldorioty de Castro, noting that, by that time, the object had lost altitude. They passed the express, and came in front of the Government Centre of Minillas, which is near Candelaria Street. At this time the ufo was "at not more than 20 or 30 feet" above their car. According to the witnesses, the ufo proceeded at a slow speed and changed course West-East. The object was disc shaped having an estimated diameter of 20 feet, and was much larger than their car, a "Datsun". They observed a "certain protruberance" on it as it passed over them. It also appeared to have a light in front and another behind, while there was another central light in its lower (=? base, ED.) section. It was silent at all times. Srta. Reyes works for a well known firm of architects.

UFO REPORTS FROM EARLIER MONTHS IN 1973.

With the intention of completing this catalogue of cases from 1973 for Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, we list below some additional sightings and experiences which, although they occurred before the months of most activity, should be regarded as forming an undoubted part of the overall ufo "wave". As before, we commence with some additional reports from the Dominican Republic.

Dominican Republic.

24th. April, 1973: A well known businessman, who prefers anonymity, declared to the press ("Listin Diario", 27th. April 1973) that, together with a companion, he watched a strange circular apparatus descending between sugar-cane plantations near Villa Altigracia, on the Duarte road. The ufo evidently descended until it was some 50 feet above the ground, and then emitted a luminous ray. It then ascended again, this time at vertiginous speed. It was of a brilliant

green-blue colour, very similar to mercury light. The event occurred at 4.00am.^{15.}

On the same day, a bus-conductor, Manuel B. Rodriguez, reported seeing a strange object with brilliant lights flying at low altitude near San Cristobal.

28th. April, 1973: A doctor of medicine, who requests anonymity, informed the press ("Listin Diario", 2nd. May, 1973) that, when on the Mella road near the Boca Chica - San Isidro cross-roads, he had seen an unusual object looking "like a zeppelin" but much "narrower", and which, after flying at great speed, stopped suddenly in order to allow 5 smaller objects come out. These latter moved swiftly away in formation towards the South. This event took place at 3.30am.

Another, unnamed, person telephoned the same newspaper to tell how, at the same time on the same date, when he was leaving San Pedro de Macoris, on the way to Santo Domingo, he saw "5 lights coming out rapidly from a star". Almost certainly both these widely separated observers watched the same event.

End of April 1973 (Exact date uncertain): On an undetermined date shortly before 28th. April, Jose Antonio Flaquer, owner of an important cattle-farm in Nisibon, Higüey, in the eastern part of the country, declared to the press ("Listin Diario", 28th. April, 1973) that he had seen a sky object "which was very luminous while it descended to less than 500 metres" from him. He further stated that the ufo remained among trees and shrubs on his property for about 6 minutes, afterwards departing at "incredible speed to the south-east, in the direction of the La Mona canal."

Puerto Rico.

18th. February, 1973: While flying at an altitude of 1500 feet above sea-level, between the islands of Vieque and Culebra, Ruben Torres, a 27-years old commercial pilot, felt his aeroplane (a Britten-Norman Islander) collide with an unseen object. Originally Torres had taken off from San Juan, had then landed in Vieque to disembark some passengers, had then taken off again from that place and was at the time, approximately 8.00pm., proceeding towards Culebra. He was unable to determine what it was he collided with, but, whatever it was, it caused him much pain in his legs. His plane was apparently undamaged.

Early June, 1973 (Exact date unnoted): A freight-truck driver, Sr. Crisanto Marval Perez, had an odd experience one night in June (precise date not remembered now). He was driving at night carrying freight to Arecibo, a town located 82 kilometres West of San Juan. When nearing that town he noticed a strange "star" (much larger than the "morning star", Venus, which he had seen many times before) which was apparently always following him since it was continuously visible in his driving mirror no matter in which direction the road took him. At approximately 4.00am. Perez arrived at the commercial centre in Arecibo, and, with a colleague, unloaded some of the merchandise. Fatigued, both men climbed into the truck and dozed off. They were later awakened by footsteps. Thinking that thieves may have been about, they investigated but found nothing. They returned to the truck and went back to sleep. Shortly afterwards, Perez was again wakened by a "noise". In the external rear driving mirror he could see three whitish figures approaching the truck. His colleague was still fast asleep. Frightened, Perez did not move. Then he saw in the reflection of the mirror on the opposite door the three figures leaning through the window behind his head. They looked inside while Perez pretended to sleep; at the time, he said, he

16⁶ felt that his head was going to explode. The strange beings were very "curious" about the contents of the truck, and talked among themselves "with a sound like that made by bats". Suddenly the beings moved away and vanished.

The three beings were white, with normal expressions (facial, ED.) except for their noses which were "parrot-like". They wore clothing having a scaly appearance, or their skin was scaly, up to their necks. They wore a type of helmet which encircled their heads and which were divided from front to back by a kind of crest.

According to Perez's statement, he woke up his companion as soon as the beings had gone, told him what had happened. The latter had seen and felt nothing and was incredulous about the episode. Perez returned to his home in Bayamon in his own car, where he was greeted by his wife and mother, who noted that he was very "excited", and went directly to bed where he suffered a strong "fever and headache". Perez is uncertain whether any relationship exists between the three strange beings and the unusual "star" seen by him previously. He adds that, on arriving in his truck at Arecibo commercial centre, he saw the "star" again, in a place where before there was nothing, and which "quickly extinguished itself".

CONCLUSIONS.

The foregoing details permit the following conclusions, which have been based on the analyses possible between the cases described and the ufo "wave" or "waves" recorded in 1973 for other regions.

- (A) The 1973 ufo "wave" on the American continent (North and South America) had repercussions in the Dominican Republic to a slight degree, and to a very marked degree in Puerto Rico. During 1973, eight cases were registered in the Dominican Republic, of which five occurred between July and December; while in Puerto Rico there was a total of thirty-five cases, of which thirty-three occurred between September 1973 and January 1974 (which had two cases).
- (B) The recently experienced "wave" in Puerto Rico is the most extensive and abundant on record there. We should note also the following details.
 - (i) the distribution of the aforementioned cases is:-

Cases at low altitude (TYPE I, according to Vallee).....	9
Cases "nave nodriza".....	3
Cases of objects moving at moderate altitudes.....	9
Cases of objects at great distances.....	8
"Miraculous" apparitions.....	1
Apparitions of beings without associated ufos.....	2
Conversations with "humans" of strange aspect.....	1
"Message" heard through radio interruption.....	1
Collision between aeroplane and unidentified object.....	1
Photographs (already included).....	2
 - (ii) It is interesting to note the absence of a proven case of a landing itself, or of contact with beings directly related with observed ufos.
 - (iii) The distribution of sightings by individual months can be summarized as follows.

1973						1974.
FEB.	JUN.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.
1	1	1	5	19	6	2

A definite high-point or maximum is seen to have occurred during the November.

- (iv) The majority of cases involving actual objects occurred at night between the hours of 6.00pm and 10.00pm.

Eight cases (27% of the total known cases during this period) occurred in full daylight.

- (v) There were two areas in Puerto Rico of major ufo activity. These were San Juan, the capital and its environs; and the area west and south-east on the island. The principal TYPE I sightings occurred in these areas.

Interestingly, it seems that for the first time, so far as we know, sightings were made with a non-rural tendency. Although the west and south-east has a relatively low population compared with the capital, San Juan and its surroundings support more than 1.5 million inhabitants, according to the latest census figures.

- (vi) The following items refer to phenomena sometimes related to ufo activity, and which, during the period under discussion, occurred various localities.

- (1) An earth tremor, of slight intensity, at Ponce, Puerto Rico, on 4th. December, 1973.
- (2) Fires (classified by the police as of "unknown origin") at Coamo, Aibonito, Guayanilla, and principally in Ponce. Eleven homes were affected together with various sugar-cane plantations, the collective loss amounting to more than 150,000 dollars.
- (3) Earth tremor, registered on 9th. January, 1974, at a place 127 kilometres from Santo Domingo, towards the "fosa" of Milwaukee, Dominican Republic.

- (vii) The "wave" received much more coverage in Puerto Rico from the press than any similar ufo activity had ever been accorded in the past, and ufo sightings were a common talking point for many weeks. On the initiative of one television channel, a documentary film is now being made about ufes over Puerto Rico. It is expected to last for about one hour.

NOTES.

The following notes, supplementary to the foregoing details, may prove of interest and future use.

- (1) For the Tainos Indians, the primitive inhabitants of Puerto Rico, the mountain of El Yunque was the place where the spirit of the superior divinity "Yucajú" lived, and for that reason was regarded as a "sacred place". Possibly

of greater significance are the two mysterious disappearances of children in the last few years from the recreational area at El Yunque. In 1965, during a students' outing to that place, 8-year old Maria Esther Figueroa disappeared. On 25th July, 1973, 7-year old Jose Antonio Alemar disappeared from the same area. Although the authorities organised different search parties, involving the mobilization of hundreds of men for many days, no traces were ever found of either child, and both disappearances remain unsolved.

(2) The photographs taken by the photographer William Rosario, present a prototype of the object described in certain other reports received during this "wave", admitting small variations which may be subjective in character. We venture to suggest that the object, in the case of the 2nd. November, centred at Toa Alta, and the full investigation of the case of 3rd. January this year, at Rayamon, is the same.

(3) This case, although not directly linked with a ufo, is, without doubt, a part of the ufo phenomenon. There was certainly no contact in the "traditional" sense as used among ufologists. Other apparently related cases to the ufo phenomenon were the "miraculous" apparition in Adjuntas, a town which was the focal point of the 1972 "wave", which occurred on October 30th.; the unusual conversation of the secretary with the strange "being" with perfect features, in late November; and the "message" heard by the radio-announcer, Jose Francisco Roman on his car radio, also at the end of November. In these last two cases, the voice or "being" departed with the remark "we will see each other again soon" or "we will hear each other again soon".

During the recent "wave" of ufo sightings in the U.S.A., it seems that there were also cases of "strange beings", "monsters", etc. From July, 1973, for example, there have been reports of a "monster" in the Murphysboro area of Illinois, a State prominent in the U.S.A. "wave", and which the local police investigated extensively

(4) Those interested in the correlation of ufos and earth-tremors, should refer to the contact case "El Naufrago de Venus" published in STENDEK, vol. iv, no:12 (Apartado 282, Barcelona, Spain). Other writers on the ufo phenomenon, such as Meade Lane, Wilkins, and Constance, have all drawn attention to the possible, even probable, relationships between ufos and earth tremors, and their writings should be consulted and compared.

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OPERATION BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1974.

Every succeeding generation of individuals who become interested in the subject of ufos finds it increasingly difficult to "know" the literature, or even to just find out what is now being published and what used to be but is no longer. Some years ago a useful catalogue of the better known books and periodicals dealing with ufos appeared under the editorship of Lynn Catoe. Contact (UK) is now compiling (for eventual publication) a much enlarged and comprehensive successor to that catalogue, and all readers are invited to submit press-cuttings, references, even old books and journals, to Eddie Cox or Walter Oldershaw (of Data Research) who are undertaking this project.

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BUFORA Journal: Dr John Cleary-Baker, who edited the quarterly journal since 1965, retired from this post in 1973. Editorial correspondence and exchange journals should be sent to the new editor, Norman Oliver: The Editor, BUFORA JOURNAL, Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, London, SE.12.

London Lectures: These take place monthly on a Saturday evening, and feature distinguished speakers. They are well attended, and also provide an opportunity for members to meet socially. Programme cards for meetings, up to and including an illustrated lecture on 1st June 1974, are available upon request.

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